

CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM

Pennsylvania

French Creek Watershed

WILDLIFE HABITAT SELF-ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE:

SUGARBUSH

Answers to the following questions will help determine if production Sugarbush forest satisfies NRCS quality criteria for wildlife habitat at a Resource Management System (RMS) level. The questions apply to all Sugarbush acreages. Please read and answer each question by checking Yes or No.

Yes No

1. Is the Sugarbush forest adjacent to other forest land with a mixture

of native trees and shrubs? Forest land that is beneficial to wildlife will have a mixture of native trees and shrubs, with some that provide either hard mast (e.g., nuts) or soft mast (e.g., berries). Native shrubs or saplings need to comprise at least 25 percent of the stand, with less than 10 percent invasive species.

2. Are there 3 or more size classes (e.g., seedling, sapling, pole or sawtimber) of trees present in the Sugarbush forest?

3. Are standing dead or dying trees or trees with cavities present

(minimum of 12 in. diameter trunks and at least 2 per acre) and are fallen trunks and limbs readily visible on the forest floor from most locations within the Sugarbush forest?

4. Are domestic livestock not present or excluded by fencing

and is there no other disturbance to ground cover and shrubs and saplings in the Sugarbush forest? Normal forestry operations that follow water quality Best Management Practices (BMP's) are not considered disturbances.
